

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method as recited in claim 12 for operating an internal combustion engine having a fuel-driven combustion motor, in which fuel is delivered under pressure to the combustion motor via a fuel delivery system, further the method comprising:

regulating a pressure of the fuel to a setpoint;

recognizing a fault and determining ~~[[the]]~~ a pressure decay rate in the fuel delivery system when an actual pressure value does not reach the setpoint during a predefined time; and

determining a type of the fault as a function of a comparison of the pressure decay rate with ~~[[the]]~~ a predefined threshold value.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 13, further comprising: initiating an emergency mode action as a function of the type of fault.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~[[12]]~~ 13, ~~further comprising: recognizing~~ the type of the fault is determined to be a leak in the fuel delivery system in ~~[[the]]~~ an event that an absolute value of the pressure decay rate exceeds the predefined threshold value.

16. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 15, further comprising: shutting off the internal combustion engine when the leak in the fuel delivery system is ~~recognized~~ determined.

17. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 16, further comprising: blocking a restarting of the internal combustion engine ~~is blocked~~ when the leak in the fuel delivery system is ~~recognized~~ determined.

18. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~[[12]]~~ 13, ~~further comprising: recognizing~~ wherein the type of the fault is determined to be a fault in the fuel supply system when an absolute value of the pressure decay rate falls below the predefined threshold value.

19. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 18, further comprising:
activating a limitation of a quantity of fuel delivered when the fault in the fuel supply system has been ~~recognized~~ determined.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~[[12]]~~ 13, further comprising:
shutting off the internal combustion engine when ~~[[a]]~~ the fault has been recognized regardless of ~~[[a]]~~ the type of the fault, when the internal combustion engine is at idle or at low load below a predefined load threshold.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~[[12]]~~ 13, wherein the step of determining the pressure decay rate ~~[[step]]~~ includes separating a high-pressure circuit from a low-pressure circuit of the fuel delivery system, and determining the pressure decay rate in the high-pressure circuit.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim ~~[[12]]~~ 13, further comprising:
transmitting a warning message when the fault is recognized.